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MARTIN LUTHER KING
. . . met with Hoover

Dr. King Wiretaps Reported

NEW YORK, Aug. 9 (AP)—Time magazine says FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover confronted the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1964 with some wiretaps revealing Dr. King's alleged extramarital activities, and the Civil Rights leader later toned down his criticism of the FBI.

An issue of the magazine released today gives Time's version of the 1964 Hoover-King meeting in an article discussing a new book about Dr. King by novelist John Williams.

In his book, "The King God Didn't Save," Williams says the FBI started tapping Dr. King's telephone and bugging his hotel rooms in 1963.

Time says Williams reports that the surveillance uncovered no subversion but "did turn up an astonishing amount of information about King's extensive and vigorous sexual acitvities."

Williams quotes one anonymous source as telling him that King used a code. "A very attractive woman was called 'Doctor,' " the informant is quoted as having said. "I forget the other names for women not so attractive.

Time says "most newspapers ignored the rumors and leaks to them of King's extramarital activities, but their existence undermined King's effectiveness justthe same."

"The effect, says Williams, was one of slow political assassination; King was spared it only by the bullet of James Earl Ray," Time said.

Ray pleaded guilty to killing Dr. King in 1968.

In presenting its version of the Hoover-King meeting, Time said:

"Williams has the correct outline of the FBI tape story. What he does not have is precisely what happened at the celebrated meeting between FBI Director Hoover and King in 1964.

"Hoover, Time learned, explained to King just what damaging private detail he had on the tapes and lectured him that his morals should be those befitting a Nobel Prize winner. He also suggested that King should tone down his criticism of the FBI. King took the advice. His decline in black esteem followed, a decline scathingly narrated by Williams."

The magazine says Williams argues in his book that Dr. King was the complicitous victim of a "white power" plot to manipulate and ultimately destroy him.

The fact that the FBI had been bugging Dr. King was revealed last year by FBI agent Robert Nichols in a courtroom in Houston, Tex., where boxer Cassius Clay was seeking to vacate a sentence for refusal to be inducted into the Army. One of the monitored conversations was between Dr. King and Clay.